



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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NEWS SUMMARY

Today, Steven M. Biskupic, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin; David B. Mitchell, the Special Agent In Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Milwaukee Division; Rudy Green, Inspector in Charge, U.S. Postal Inspection Service; and Roger B. Lindo, Officer in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, announced the arrests of seventeen individuals in five states (Wisconsin, Florida, New York, Tennessee, and Mississippi). The individuals arrested were involved in a coupon redemption fraud and money laundering scheme that resulted in losses exceeding \$4 million dollars. Some of the proceeds of the fraud were sent to the West Bank and Jordan. The FBI is continuing to investigate the overseas financial transactions and other aspects of the scheme.

This investigation was conducted over a nineteen month period. The scheme involved over 300 stores and spanned fifteen states, including Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin. Arrests, interviews, and federal search warrant of businesses and residences were conducted simultaneously today by the FBI and cooperating law enforcement partners in a number of states.

Fourteen of the seventeen individuals arrested today are being charged by complaints filed in the Eastern District of Wisconsin for their participation in a conspiracy to violate the following federal statutes: Mail Fraud; Wire Fraud; Money Laundering; Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property; and Receiving Stolen Property that Crossed State Lines. The other individuals are being charged in Mississippi

The following individuals are being charged on Federal warrants issued in the Eastern District of Wisconsin:

ABDEL RAHIM JEBARA, age 44, Miami, Florida

MEDRE A. MEDRE, age 20, Yonkers, New York

SHAHIRA HAMIDEH JEBARA, age 42, Miami, Florida

IZZAT F. HAMIDEH, age 38, Yonkers, New York

MAMON JABER, age 29, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

ROBERT W. MACDONALD, age 62, Memphis, Tennessee

CARLOS ARIAS, age 32, Yonkers, New York

ALI M. THABIT, age 49, New York, New York

ANAM Q. MANASRAH, age 36, New York, New York

MARIO MATILDE, age 31, Yonkers, New York

WARDEH SHIHADAH, age 41, Hialeah, Florida

EID SHIHADEN, age 55, Hialeah, Florida

NASSER MAHMOUD QASEM, age 36, Port St. Lucie, Florida

ZAHID IQBAL, age 45, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The FBI was assisted in this investigation by a number of law enforcement agencies, including the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Social Security Administration the Milwaukee Police Department, and other state and local agencies in a number of states.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Anyone who may wish to provide additional information pertaining to this investigation should contact the Milwaukee Office of the FBI at 414-276-4684, or your nearest FBI office. This case has been assigned to United States Attorney Stephen A. Ingraham for prosecution.

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For more information contact:

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